

From rlbens1 Tue Oct 10 14:28:21 1995

To: wpcrowe@nsa

Subject: DCI FYI

Cc: jaemmel@nsa, jpcavan@nsa, [REDACTED]

Classification: ~~four~~ Content-Length: 3264 X-Lines: 54

Content-Length: 3290

X-Lines: 90

(b)(3)-P.L. 86-36

Bill, for yr meeting tomorrow morning with David Kahn (Jim and I will be there):

1. Am forwarding the e-mail I sent to Judy Emmel for her to take to DCI as an fyi item regarding the release of the Eleanor Roosevelt msg. I also tabbed for DCI abt 15 or 20 messages in the set of translations delivered to him and wrote notes on some of them (e.g. calling his attn to OSS messages; interesting recruiting messages etc).

2. In discussions with David Kahn, aside from what is in the second monograph, you might want to mention something from this list:

a. A number of translations show the truth of the long-ago public disclosures by Elizabeth Bentley and by Boris Morros (for who the FBI ghosted the much ridiculed book "My Ten Years as an FBI Counterspy". Much more of this in the 3rd release.

b. Several messages in this set concern the KGB operation to get Trotsky's murderer out of a Mexican prison -- much more information on this opn in the Mexico City messages to be released in 1996.

c. Early mention of Walter Lippmann by a covername, and his secretary by covername too (my opinion: Lippmann not a bad guy; his secretary, however, was KGB). Many more Lippmann messages in the 1944-45 NY KGB releases.

d. Several messages abt KGB agent Major Duncan Lee (covername KOCH), sometime special asst to General Donovan, head of the OSS.

e. An obscure, but confessional, reference to the Katyn Massacre (the murder of the Polish officers by KGB in 1940).

e. In general, lot of good stuff in this release, but requires close attn; lot of poorly recovered messages and messages about obscure Latin American personalities.

The 1944-45 NYC and Wash DC release (3rd release) will be of outstanding historical interest.

Begin Included Message -----

From rlbens1 Wed Oct 4 10:47:52 1995

To: jaemmel@nsa

Subject: DCI FYI

Classification: ~~four~~ Content-Length: 1339 X-Lines: 21

Judi,

Suggest an FYI item to the DCI re the 2nd Venona release telling him that Mrs. Roosevelt will be seen in a clandestine

sense in a KGB msg translation being released.

Msg Nos. 786-787, 26 May 1943, NY KGB to Moscow, MAXIM (Zubilin), the Resident, to VIKTOR (Fitin), head of the FCD is a very long, poorly recovered message that probably deals entirely with Eleanor Roosevelt. The message opens:

"For processing KAPITAN's wife we [2 grps unrecovered] her great friend Gertrude Pratt".

While not cryptanalytically provable, the two missing groups are presumably "will use" or something like that.

The remainder of the message suggests that VARD0 - Elizabeth Zubilin, a KGB officer and the Resident's wife, and probable KGB officer Sokirkin would also be involved in the "processing" of Mrs. R.

NSA translated the KGB term of art "orformlenie" as "processing". It is a word often seen in Venona messages and represents some stage of the recruiting cycle.

Gertrude (Trude) Pratt was a close friend of Mrs. R. and at that time the lover of Joe Lash, another great friend of Mrs. R. In his bio of Mrs. R., Lash described himself as a near Communist who nonetheless warned Mrs. R. about dangers of CP trying to take advantage of her.

(see pages 349-354 in Vol II of classified history for more discussion)

Lou

----- End Included Message -----



NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY
FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MARYLAND 20755-6000

PRESS RELEASE

10 October 1995

For further information contact:
NSA Public Affairs, 301-688-6524

**SECOND RELEASE OF VENONA DOCUMENTS SCHEDULED FOR 12 OCTOBER
VENONA TRANSLATIONS AVAILABLE ON-LINE VIA INTERNET**

On 12 October 1995 the second release of declassified VENONA documents will be available to the public. This release, over 250 translations of KGB ~~communications~~ communications, focuses on messages between the New York KGB Residency and Moscow Center during 1942 to 1943. ✓

The VENONA project was initiated in 1943 by the Army Signal Intelligence Service, a forerunner of the National Security Agency (NSA). Painstaking analysis by U.S. cryptologists led to the breaking and reading of communications exchanged by the KGB and GRU with their stations in the Western hemisphere. The VENONA messages revealed extensive detail about Soviet espionage activities in the U.S. and other countries, providing insight into Soviet spycraft.

Highlights of this second release include a September 1943 message providing KGB Residencies instructions on how to handle intelligence sources within the Communist Party after the disestablishment of the COMINTERN (Communist International – a Soviet-controlled organization that conducted liaison with the national Communist parties of various countries). There is a message from the head of Soviet state security L.P. Beria admonishing the KGB Residencies to improve their security practices and, also included are several messages dealing with Soviet subversive activity in Latin American countries.

On 11 July 1995 the first VENONA release was announced in a ceremony hosted by Director of Central Intelligence John M. Deutch. That release covered 49 messages primarily relating to Soviet espionage activities directed at the U.S. Atomic Bomb Program. The remaining 1800 of the approximately 2200 VENONA translations will be released over the coming year. The third release is scheduled for early 1996.

The VENONA collection, including all released documents and the two accompanying monographs, can be accessed via the Internet's World Wide Web at <http://www.gov.nsa:8080/> as of 12 October 1995. Also on that day the VENONA display at the National Cryptologic Museum, updated to include the two messages cited in this release, will be opened. In addition to the museum staff, Agency historians will be available all day 12 October at the museum to answer questions about the VENONA project.

The National Cryptologic Museum is located on Colony 7 Road and Rt. 32, adjacent to the Baltimore–Washington Parkway. The museum is open to the public. Museum hours are Weekdays (except holidays) 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

854/16 June 42 Joe Foster & Martha Dodd
Stern

424 / 1 July 42 Pierre Cot (Dredalms)

777-781 / 26 May 43 SLAVA (Walston)

782 26 May 43 Duncan Lee (Koch)

786-787 26 May 43 KAPITAN's wife

Greg Silvermaster

Refers to the Normand Project

Early mention of Walter Lippman by
c/n & his seeing DIR (my wife
Pine)

~~(Deleted for security)~~

Z VENO 23 June 43

First mention of The P.I.R. - the Fishers
1999-2000, 16 Dec 43.

KATYN 1 July 43

#1033